

What's New in the MPDC

JULY 2, 2001

INDEPENDENCE DAY MEANS CELEBRATIONS, BUT ALSO DANGERS FROM FIREWORKS

The 4th of July is always a festive time in DC – and this year is no different. But with the fun and festivities also comes some danger related to people using illegal fireworks. Again this year, the MPDC is alerting the public that DC law prohibits all firecrackers, as well as any fireworks that explode (such as cherry bombs, salutes, Roman candles, floral shells, and artillery shells) or launch after being lit (such bottle rockets, parachutes, buzzbombs, pinwheels, helicopters, and jumping jacks). Fireworks that have a side fuse or that contain mercury, arsenic or other dangerous materials are also prohibited. Among the fireworks allowed in the District are small sparklers, fountains, torches and other novelty items. For detailed information on fireworks laws and safety tips, as well as Independence Day events, click on:

www.mpd.org (Click on Safety Tips)

The MPDC typically receives a large number of calls to our Communication Center on and around the July 4th holiday. The Department offers these tips: for actual gunshots or fireworks that create an immediate public safety hazard, call 9-1-1 with a complete description of the incident; for reports of fireworks that do not pose an immediate public safety hazard, please call the police non-emergency number, 3-1-1 (and please be patient if you are temporarily put on hold). For more information about when to use 9-1-1 and 3-1-1, go to

*www.mpd.org
(Click on Telephone Directory)*

THINK TRAFFIC SAFETY THIS SUMMER

With speeding a factor in more than half of all traffic fatalities in the District of Columbia, the MPDC next week is launching a new campaign, using state-of-the-art technology, to reduce speeding and prevent injuries and deaths on DC's streets and highways. Chief Ramsey joins city and community leaders in unveiling the citywide speeding reduction strategy, which includes the region's first photo radar enforcement system, this Monday. Get the details at:

www.mpd.org (Click on News)

DC experienced a spate of traffic crashes – several involving pedestrians – over the last week (see the News page at www.mpd.org). As summer kicks into high gear, more people are out driving and walking, and it is critical for motorists and pedestrians to be aware of one another and to always think safety. Here are some simple safety tips: allow ample time to reach your destination safely – don't speed to compensate for lost time; stay alert – don't be distracted by phone calls, reading, etc.; never drive when you are tired; observe right-turn-on-red laws and always yield to pedestrians in sidewalks; pedestrians should always cross on the green at marked intersections. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offers lots of driver

and pedestrian safety tips on its Web site:

www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Drunken driving is also a concern around the 4th of July and throughout the summer. Get the facts about drinking and driving in DC at:
www.mpd.org (Click on Safety Tips)

CRIME DOWN SHAPRLY IN MAY; YEAR-TO-DATE REDUCTION AT 4 PERCENT

On the strength of substantial reductions in homicide, sexual assault, robbery and burglary, crime in DC dropped nearly 9 percent in May when compared with the same month a year. That is according to preliminary crime statistics released by the MPDC this week. Homicides fell 53 percent in May (from 17 to 8), sexual assaults fell 24 percent, and robberies, burglaries and auto thefts dropped 10 percent each last month. Only arson showed an increase in May, from 4 in May 2000 to 11 last month. Through the first five months of the year, preliminary figures show that crime in DC is down nearly 4 percent, marking the sixth consecutive year of declining crime. Homicides are down more than 30 percent for the year, with double-digit decreases in sexual assault and burglary as well. Only robbery and arson have shown increases for the year. You can review preliminary crime statistics for each of the seven police districts and for the District as a whole at:

For tips on how you can help prevent crime and avoid becoming a crime victim, check out the MPDC's Safety Tips page at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on Safety Tips)

www.mpdc.org (Click on Crime Statistics)

MPDC PROMOTES 30 NEW SERGEANTS

In ceremonies Friday afternoon at the U.S. Mint Police Headquarters in Northwest, Chief Ramsey swore in 30 officers who have been promoted to the rank of sergeant. The new sergeants will be assigned to Police Service Areas (PSAs) throughout the District, to enhance leadership in the field and advance community policing. For more information about the District's community policing strategy, "Policing for Prevention," and the roles of the PSAs, click on:

www.mpdc.org (Click on Policing for Prevention)

REMINDER: NEW CURFEW HOURS TAKE EFFECT

The MPDC reminds young people and their parents that new hours for DC's curfew law take effect July 1 and last through August 31. During July and August only, the curfew hours are 12:01 am to 6:00 am, seven days a week. Young people and parents are also reminded that the MPDC will be enforcing the curfew throughout the summer, with our primary goal being reuniting violators and their families. Learn more about DC's curfew law and the MPDC enforcement strategy at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on Safety Tips)

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kmorison_mpdc@excite.com.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
WWW.MPDC.ORG